

LITURGY OF THE WORD
Fourth Sunday of Lent Year A
First Reading Sm 16:1. 6-7. 10-13
A reading from the first book of Samuel

In the presence of the Lord God, they anointed David king of Israel.

The Lord said to Samuel, ‘Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.’ When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, ‘Surely the Lord’s anointed one stands there before him,’ but the Lord said to Samuel, ‘Take no notice of his appearance or his height for I have rejected him; God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.’ Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, ‘The Lord has not chosen these.’ He then asked Jesse, ‘Are these all the sons you have?’ He answered, ‘There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.’ Then Samuel said to Jesse, ‘Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.’ Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, ‘Come, anoint him, for this is the one.’ At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

The Word of the Lord
R. Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm Ps 22 R. v.1
(R.) The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

1. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose. Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit.
2. He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name. If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear. You are there with your crook and your staff; with these you give me comfort.
3. You have prepared a banquet for me In the sight of my foes. My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing.
4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life. In the Lord’s own house shall I dwell for ever and ever.

(R.) The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Second Reading Eph 5:8-14

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said: Wake up from your sleep, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

The Word of the Lord
R. Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation Jn 8:12

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life.

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel Jn 9:1. 6-9. 13-17. 34-38

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

The blind man went off and washed himself and came away with his sight restored.

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. He spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man and said to him, ‘Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam’ (a name that means ‘sent’). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored.

His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, ‘Isn’t this the man who used to sit and beg?’ Some said, ‘Yes, it is the same one.’ Others said, ‘No, he only looks like him.’ The man himself said, ‘I am the man.’

They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man’s eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, ‘He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.’ Then some of the Pharisees said, ‘This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.’ Others said, ‘How could a sinner produce signs like this?’ And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, ‘What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?’ ‘He is a prophet’ replied the man.

‘Are you trying to teach us,’ they replied ‘and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!’ And they drove him away.

Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, ‘Do you believe in the Son of Man?’ ‘Sir,’ the man replied ‘tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.’ Jesus said, ‘You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.’ The man said, ‘Lord, I believe’, and worshipped him.

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REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate
Spittle and Mud

Our Lord, by the power of his word alone, could have healed the dis-ease of this man, blind since birth. Yet, he made a paste with spittle and put it over the eyes of the blind man. Just as God would have moistened the dust of the earth to shape the first human being, for the blind man, it was as though he had been created anew. God rarely works by telepathy but has a preferred way of working through the elements of creation, especially in the Sacraments. So, with the Anointing of the Sick, pressing olive oil onto the forehead and hands of the sick or dying symbolises the Holy Spirit entering the very pores of the sick person, relieving that person of undue anxiety and giving strength for the next stage of life. This sacrament is a formal ritual of healing by the Church. But there are a million informal ways, such as putting one’s arm around someone who is lonely or unwell, which are sacramental to the world. We could pause for a moment that we might go into the world like the man healed by Jesus, eyes wide open to see where we might exercise the healing power of the Lord of the Gospel.

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Upcoming
Events

Choir Practice
Monday @ 1pm

Cenacle Prayer 9.30
am Fridays after
Mass, and 1st
Saturday of the
month @ 9.30am

ENJOY THE GOOD
NEWS
Resumes after Easter

Wrap With Love
Tuesday 29th March
1pm Meeting Room

Craft Group
Thursdays 10am

ADORATION
TUESDAY @ 8AM

COFFEE CLUB
Thursdays after Mass
Venue: Corrigans
Cove
All are welcome

STATIONS OF THE
CROSS & SOUP
DINNER
5.00PM FRIDAY
during Lent

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT —YEAR A

“ It is a terrible thing to see and have no vision”

This quote from Helen Keller is thought provoking and, in some ways, highlights some features of this week’s readings. Vision, sight, light, dark, blindness are all mentioned in the readings and used in pairs of opposites e.g. light/dark, faith/unbelief which could demonstrate or be seen as having theological meaning. What is the message for us as we continue on this Journey Together through Lent and towards Easter?



Samuel tells us that “God does not see as we do but looks at the heart.”

The reading from Ephesians suggests that now we are children of light we should allow the light to transform us so we can live as true disciples.

It is in the Gospel that we find a deep, enriching thought provoking story emerge, encapsulating all that Helen Keller’s quote suggests. We become aware that there are two groups in this story-a man who is blind and another group referred to as people and the Pharisees. Whilst there is no explanation about the circumstances of the man’s blindness, reaction towards him was the typical view of the time: suffering was a punishment for something. Jesus then complicates the issue further by His healing and restoring the man’s sight on the Sabbath no less, and thereby irritating the authorities again.

Two parties on a journey- both believing they will find the “light”- the man hoping his “sight” will be restored and the Pharisees sure that their laws and regulations will insure their “light”.

As the man is cured of blindness, he moves beyond the physical into the spiritual light. Whilst he showed great courage by speaking up and acknowledging Jesus, the other group (Pharisees) stayed rigid in their attitudes , thus moving away from the light and into darkness.

Who or What will we see as we continue this Lenten journey? Will we be able to address our own spiritual blindness? Openness to God requires us to see beyond ourselves, move out of our comfort zone and be more aware that God looks at the heart, not seeing things as we see them. It is comforting to know that God is walking this journey with us - may we seek His light as our guide.

“All the darkness in the world cannot extinguish the light of a single candle”
St Francis of Assisi

Ken and Carolyn Evenden



MASSES THIS WEEK Monday 20th March- Sunday 26th March

Monday 20th: No Mass
Tuesday 21st: Mass 9am
Adoration: 8.00am
Wednesday 22nd: Mass 9am
Thursday 23rd: Mass 9am
Friday 24th: Mass 9am
5pm Stations of the Cross
and Soup Dinner
Saturday 25th: Vigil 6pm
Sunday 26th: Mass 9am

Masses in Aged Care Facilities

- Mass First Wed of Month @10.30am Denhams Beach Community Care (Opal)
- Mass 2nd Wed of the month @10.30am The Glen
- Mass 3rd Wed of month @2pm The Manor
- Mass 4th Wed of month @2pm Maranatha Lodge

ROSTERS

18/19 MARCH
Cleaning
20-24 D & L May

6.00PM MASS
Welcomer B Oerder
Commentator M Weatherall
Reader: P Nolan
Eucharistic Ministers
Y Oerder, L Rodwell
Computer Screen
K Conway

9.00 AM MASS:
Welcomer C Connell
Commentator B Basevi
Reader: D Herring
Eucharistic Ministers
V & C Burns
Computer Screen D May.

MORNING TEA:
A Brown & helper

25/26 MARCH
Cleaning
27/31 M DeSmet J Maher

6.00PM MASS
Welcomer M Devine
Commentator: J Quigley
Reader: S Ebejer:
Eucharistic Ministers
M Bridges M Devine
Computer Screen
M O'Neill

9.00 AM MASS:
Welcomer M deSmet
Commentator A Brown
Reader: N Beatty. ..
Eucharistic Ministers
M & C Lowe
Computer Screen T Jackson

MORNING TEA:
M & S Beashel L Foran



LENTEN PROGRAM

God is on the Journey too:
All are welcome to attend the
Lenten Program

beginning on each
Wednesday February 22 – March 29 after
the 9am Mass in the Church Meeting
Room. Or you might like to join the
Evening Lenten Group at 5pm in the
Church Meeting Room, contact Bernie Basevi: [m]0428 227 384
Or join a zoom group contact Phil Billington [m]0428 593 191

A good way to prepare with other like minded people for the
Lenten Journey to Easter.

We ask a \$5 donation for the booklet if you are able.
Any enquires contact: Marie Weatherall 0405 028 057

CHRISM MASS— MONDAY 3RD APRIL, 5pm @ St Christopher's
Cathedral Forrest for this most important Holy Week Ceremony.
ALL ARE MOST WELCOME
Everyone is most welcome

MULTICULTURAL MASS – Sunday 16 April 11am **St Christopher's Cathedral**

You are warmly invited to the Archdiocese's annual Multicultural Mass at St Christopher's Cathedral – one full of colour, song, and dance. Australia's multicultural heritage is one of the country's great treasures, so come along and join our African, Anglo-Indian, Filipino, Indonesian, Korean, Spanish, and Vietnamese Catholic communities as we all walk together.

One Day Pastoral Care

Introductory Course: a time to review if you are experienced, a time to learn if you are new and want to know more.

Date: Saturday March 25, 2023.
9am – 4pm
beginning in St Bernard's Parish Office. **BYO Lunch. Morning Tea & Afternoon Tea provided.**
Free.

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL.

Marie Weatherall 0405 028 057

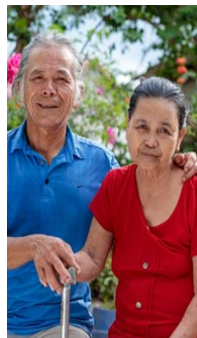
ROSTERS FOR EASTER

There is a form available under the notice board to indicate if you are available for the roster for Palm Sunday or Easter. Please put your name and telephone number and mark the date you are available. Rosters will be prepared and sent out. Thank you

PARISH FINANCIAL SUPPORT

If you would like to join the Parish e-platform giving for both the Priest and the Church, the details are as follows:

Acc. Name:
St Bernard's Operating
Account: BSB: 062-786
Bank Acc: 00012939
Ref: Family Name



Thu lives in Vietnam. When Thu was 12 years old, he stepped on an unexploded land mine and lost his leg. Living with a disability in rural Vietnam presented many challenges for Thu, who worked mainly as a rice farmer. Thu also took on the role of caring for his wife, Linh, after she suffered a stroke.

Determined to turn their lives around, Thu and Linh joined the Empowerment of People with Disabilities program, run by Caritas Australia's local partner in Vietnam, the Centre for Sustainable Rural Development (SRD).

For Thu, the greatest impact the program has had is enabling the change in Linh's physical and mental wellbeing. With the support of a physiotherapist, Linh can now walk short distances with the aid of a walking stick.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2023.

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **For All Future Generations.**

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes/envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion, or by calling 1800 024 413.



Remembering the Sick:

Sr Marie McAlister, Peter O'Neill, Barry O'Neill Beverley Biglia, Fr John Walter, Lola, Fr Kevin Murphy, Allan Rogers, Pam Wilson, Antony and Andrew, Rita Condon, Ben Copland, Femia and Mark, Roberto Alivio, Vince Burns, John Dillon, James Lee, Trish Hamilton, Jim Banks, Dennis Sheather, Mary Henderson, Diane Lanzon, Marion O'Grady, Victor Edith, Jan Simpson, Dawn Robinson, Allan Odum, Luke Ward, Andrew Morton, Ken Evendon, Judy Betts, Janet Thornberry, Anica Bautovic, Angela Mylott, Jeanette Clarke, those in hospital and nursing homes.

Death Anniversaries: are listed in the Memorial Book at the front of the Church and names can be added to it if dates are provided.

We pray for the recently deceased in the Parish Community: Peter McGann, Dante Pasqualin, Loretta Jones, Filomena Dela Torre, David Coates, Christopher Horsfall, Dawn Millman, Mara Pranjic, Pope Benedict XVI, Cardinal George Pell, Michael Thornton, Barbara Mills, Travis Basevi, Judith Dewick, Flavia Clyburn, Nita Gorzalka, Michael Dove, Wayne Sing, Linda Russell, Ruby Swinton, Anna Backo,

WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS OF THE LAND THE WALBUNJA PEOPLE OF THE YUIN NATION. WE PAY OUR RESPECTS TO THEIR ELDERS, PAST, PRESENT AND EMERGING



The Year of **Walking Together**

The Risen Lord walked together with the disciples on the road to Emmaus, drawing them from anxiety to hope, from confusion to joy.

Jesus, centre of our common Emmaus walk, with You alone to guide us, make Your home in our hearts; as we pour "new wine into fresh wineskins" (Mk 2:22)

Like Mary, imbued by the Holy Spirit, may we give birth to a renewed faith and united pastoral action in this Archdiocese in the years ahead.

St Mary of the Cross, our Great Australian Intercessor, pray for us.

Mary, Mother of the Church, pray for us.

All Saints of God, who name and sanctify our parishes, pray for us. **Amen**

Pope Francis
Monthly Prayer
Intentions

MARCH

For victims of abuse

We pray for those who have suffered harm from members of the Church; may they find within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and suffering.

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